

Loudoun County Historic District Review Committee 2010-2011 Member Profiles

Chairman

Leah Thayer Ferguson is a native Virginian with over 27 years of experience in commercial and residential real estate sales and development. She was the Vice President for Retail Development for the Hines Corporation, a large international development company. Ms. Ferguson has many years of experience working with historic preservation issues, including Chairmanship of the Historic District Commission in New Orleans, where she was also responsible for developing historic district ordinances. Ms. Ferguson co-founded the Preservation Resource Center in New Orleans, taught a course on the renovation of old houses at Loyola University, and has worked closely with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the national Main Street Program. Ms. Ferguson resides on a small horse farm outside of Middleburg. She is serving her third term on the HDRC and her sixth year as Chairman.

Vice Chairman

Matthew Custer holds a degree in architecture and has more than a decade and a half of experience in architectural design, layout, and construction. Mr. Custer served as president of the FMF Corporation, a professional service company managing all aspects of projects specific to the phases of design and layout. Mr. Custer is a licensed realtor and is currently a sales agent for RE/MAX Leaders. Mr. Custer lives in a historic house in the Waterford Historic Landmark and is serving his third term on the HDRC and his third term as Vice Chairman.

Jean Brown has been involved in farming and civic activities, including historic preservation, since marrying Bill Brown in 1971. Her family is the 8th generation to live on Oakland Green Farm, a Centennial Farm (certified farm for more than 100 years), in the Goose Creek Rural Historic District. Her preservation efforts include being a founder of the Goose Creek District, participation in the Oakdale School Living History Program, and recipient of the Preservation Society of Loudoun County's 2007 Preservationist of the Year award. Mrs. Brown is also active in the land conservation arena and, among other efforts, placed 187 acres of her family's farm in a Virginia Outdoors Foundation conservation easement in 1989. On this protected cultural landscape, she raises all-natural beef with her daughter and son-in-law and has operated a bed and breakfast for over 25 years. Appointed in 2008, Mrs. Brown is in her third year on the HDRC.

Rebecca McDermott is an 8th generation Virginian who currently resides in the Goose Creek Rural Historic and Cultural Conservation District. Ms. McDermott holds a Bachelor's degree in history and completed her graduate coursework at the University of Cincinnati's Art History Program. Her graduate work included studies on adaptive reuse of historic buildings and comparative analysis of cities within the national Main Street Program. Ms. McDermott has a professional background in commercial finance,

but has pursued her interest in historic preservation through volunteer work, including Cincinnati's Historical Society. Ms. McDermott is serving her second term on the HDRC.

Karl Riedel is president of his own architectural practice in Leesburg, Virginia. Mr. Riedel brings to the HDRC nearly 30 years of experience in architecture and development – much of it in historic settings. He also serves as the Design Review Subcommittee Chairman for the Waterford Foundation. Mr. Riedel's interest and practice extends to sustainable design and he is a LEED accredited professional. A native of the Washington, DC area, he and his family have lived in an 1886 home in the Waterford Historic District for the past decade. Serving his first term, he was appointed in 2009.

Matthew Tolley is a Loudoun County resident of more than 20 years. He has built and remodeled a number of homes in the historic districts of Leesburg and Unison, as well as one near Bluemont. As an avid admirer of Loudoun's wonderful architectural history, Mr. Tolley brings a layperson's view and sensibility to the HDRC. He is a certified professional soil scientist and works for the Loudoun County Health Department. Mr. Tolley is serving his second term on the HDRC.

Judy Gerow is the newest member appointed to the HDRC. Ms. Gerow has served on a wide range of committees and organizations in Loudoun over the past 25+ years. Her historic preservation volunteer activities include serving as a Loudoun Preservation Society Board member, spearheading the 2-year effort to establish the Catoctin Rural Historic District (listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places), and participating in the establishment of Loudoun's Virginia Byways Program. In addition, she served on the Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Agriculture District Advisory Committee while farming 35 acres north of the village of Lucketts, the Loudoun Board of the Piedmont Environmental Council, the Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board, and the Bypass Alternative Review Committee (BARC) in an effort to find a western route for an Outer Beltway.